

DEC 13 1965

STATINTL

Yule Put Off By Missing Doctor's Kin

Christmas preparations have come to an abrupt halt at the home of Washington physician Richard M. Follis Jr., who disappeared mysteriously in The Netherlands, a week ago yesterday.

"I'm not doing anything for Christmas," Mrs. Follis said yesterday. "We'll have to wait and see."

Edith Follis discounted hints in the European press that her missing husband was somehow involved with the Central Intelligence Agency. The CIA has remained silent in the report.

"There's nothing to that. I'm positive," she said. "I can't imagine my husband being interested in espionage or anything of that sort. He is completely dedicated to medicine."

Mrs. Follis drove the doctor to Washington National Airport Dec. 2 to catch an Eastern Air Lines shuttle for New York, where he took a flight to Amsterdam. She has not heard from him since then.

At first she wasn't worried. "I never hear from him usually until he reaches his destination," she said. "I didn't expect a word until he got to Iran."

Dr. Follis, who has traveled throughout the world since 1955 to study work in nutritional pathology, had planned to go from Holland to Tehran to attend a conference on nutrition.

Meanwhile, he dropped out of sight sometime Dec. 5 after conferring with a Dutch expert in the field of Vitamin A deficiency.

Amsterdam police speculate that he fell into a canal and drowned during a storm that day, but his body has not been recovered and London sources say he was murdered.

Mrs. Follis, an assistant editor of the Elementary School Principal magazine for the National Education Association, said she had been asked not to answer questions from the press about her husband's disappearance. She refused to say who asked her to keep quiet and referred callers to Dr. Arnold E. Schaefer, a nutrition specialist at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Schaefer could not be reached yesterday.

The Follises, who live at 1915 Albemarle st. nw., have four children. The doctor's daughters from a previous marriage are Angela, 23, and Louise, 21. Mrs. Follis's sons from a previous marriage are Harry Powell, 17, and Hale Powell, 16, both students at Wilson High School.